

APRIL 19, 2022

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT #63-240 COUNTIES OF  
OAKLAND, LIVINGSTON, AND WASHTENAW**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dashner called the April 19, 2022 regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Anthony Abbate, Craig Dashner, Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce, Eric Kennedy, Martin Leftwich, Dan Schwegler, Jennifer Urtel

**Absent:** None

**Administration Present:** Mr. Steve Archibald, Superintendent, Lisa Kudwa, Asst. Superintendent, Brian Toth, Asst. Superintendent

**Administration Absent:** Stacy Witt, Asst. Superintendent

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board, administration and the audience joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Brian Toth explained that the Oakland County Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards sponsored by Oakland Schools, the Oakland Schools Education Foundation and various other organizations were presented annually to honor and reward Oakland County teachers who have achieved through their effort and example, the highest standards of excellence in their profession. A teacher from each level: elementary, middle school and high school were nominated for this award from each district. Mr. Toth noted that this practice was stopped last year during COVID.

Mr. Toth introduced three outstanding teachers in our district: Ms. Elizabeth Allor (Bartlett), Mr. Brenton Montie (Centennial Middle School) and Molly Copple (South Lyon High School) to honor this evening. Lisa Peters, Mrs. Bury and Mr. Brennan summarized achievements and highlighted activities that the teacher in their building had been involved in and also shared comments from their students and colleagues. An engraved award was presented to each nominee in appreciation for their outstanding contributions to our schools and for their inspiration to students every day. Mr. Toth added that all three teachers will be recognized on May 4 at an event hosted by Oakland Schools with all of the Teachers of the Year from each of the districts in Oakland County. He thanked the Board for taking the time to honor them this evening.

On behalf of the Board, President Dashner offered his thanks and congratulations to the honored teachers and acknowledged that it is the teachers in South Lyon that make us the district that we are.

There was a short break taken to allow for pictures at 7:16 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:22 p.m.

**RECOGNITION – SLHS POST HIGH MICRO ENTERPRISES** – *Molly Copple, Julie Cippola, and students*

Molly Copple first thanked the principals, Sue Toth and Amy Atwell for their amazing support with all of their students and program. The students introduced themselves. Ms. Copple stated that they have several micro enterprises. She shared that each of the students made an appreciation mug for each board member. The students then shared information on their program and various projects. Ms. Copple indicated that each year they make holiday crafts that helps pay for their Community Based Instruction (CBI) trips. They also give back proceeds to the South Lyon Educational Foundation (SLEF) from sales of SLHS umbrellas. Superintendent Archibald purchased an umbrella from one of the students.

President Dashner thanked all of the students for the presentation and for their gift mugs with candy inside. There were positive comments from the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Dashner offered an opportunity for public comments and the following comments were shared.

- *Miriam Corvino* spoke to the Board regarding public education and how Critical Race Theory is being taught in Michigan public schools. She reported that the SLCS Board has assured our community that CRT is not taught in our schools. She also cited that Michigan is lowering standards to help kids graduate. She encouraged parents to watch the February Oakland County Public Health and Safety Committee who hosted *Back to Basics* in their presentation on literacy and illiteracy in the state. She also indicated that you can also visit public school district performance and other valuable information at [mischooldata.org](https://mischooldata.org).
- *Katherine Ehresman*, stated that she was placed in a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Plus English/Math class at MMS. Before school started, she was moved to a 7<sup>th</sup> grade regular math class due to scheduling conflicts. She indicated that she was not learning and growing to her potential. The class is too easy and there was no challenge for her. She asked the Board to please not eliminate Plus math classes and allow her to participate in classes that encourage growth.
- *Zyva Ali*, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Plus student at MMS, also spoke to the proposed changes to the Plus Program. She asked the Board to keep the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students separate. She questioned why 7<sup>th</sup> grade Plus students should be integrated. Putting mainstream and academically talented students together limits the Plus students to reach their full potential.
- *Brenton Montie*, teacher & SLEA Representative, shared the following “good things” that are happening in our district.
- *Courtney Hindersman* began by highlighting one of the projects that the PEERs Program at SLHS did with the students in her social communication class after school a few weeks back. PEER mentors and PEERs created Autism Acceptance & Awareness pins. There were a lot of smiles, creativity and laughs happening in room A225. Each pin is guaranteed to have been created with a lot of SLHS heart and soul. They are on sale during lunches. The group is **Positively Empowering & Encouraging Relationships** with each and every interaction. Courtney has built the program over the past two years to include more male mentors. She is really bridging that gap and creating an inclusive culture and giving the peer students an opportunity to experience activities outside of the school day that are probably outside of their comfort zone.

- *Meredith Scarlett* runs Student Council's Appreciation and Social Committee at Millennium. She guides her middle schoolers in showing appreciation for each other's talents, successes and memorable moments. For example, each student receives a personalized birthday sign on their lockers on their special day, while teams and clubs receive good luck wishes on their lockers before competitions. She also coordinates a Mustang of the Month program where students are recognized by their teachers for outstanding leadership in school.
- *Mrs. Bardshaw & CMS Staff* – CMS did a great job organizing their DC trip. It was educational and memorable for the students. The students and parents are so thankful for the extra efforts involved in making this trip successful.
- *South Lyon East High School Mock Trial team* came in 2<sup>nd</sup> at their regional competition in early March and advanced to the state competition, where they came in 6<sup>th</sup> place. The students worked very hard to prepare for each competition, which involves trying a court case in front of a real judge. This year, students had to learn the rules of civil procedure, negligence and comparative negligence statutes and basic rules of evidence. At competition, students deliver opening and closing statements, direct and cross examine witnesses and make objections when necessary.
- *Sarah Athey* has arranged for a Holocaust survivor to come speak to students at East this month. Sarah provided East students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear directly from someone who experienced an event they just learned about in history classes.
- *Layne Malek* was one of 5 alto saxophones recognized as all-state caliber as a result of their performance in MSBOA's solo and ensemble festival.
- *CMS trip to Washington DC* – the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class took a trip to Washington DC in March and had a fantastic time. Students were able to learn about American History from the Founding Fathers (George Washington's house) to the Civil War (Battle of Gettysburg) to the Civil Rights Movement (MLK Memorial) to the September 11<sup>th</sup> (Memorial at the Pentagon). They even got to meet THREE current Congresswomen from Michigan (Haley Stevens and Elissa Slotkin both talked to the students and posed for countless selfies, and Brenda Lawrence saw our group on her way to the office and said a few words as well!
- *Mr. Grieves* has developed a system of differentiated/alternative assessments that allows all students, from his lowest co-taught students to his highest achieving students to demonstrate their learning. At the end of each unit, rather than completing a multiple-choice test, students choose from a variety of assessment options, and then orally defend their project, defining key elements of literary analysis and why they chose to select specific passages and how those passages impact the story. This project approach allows students to highlight their own strengths, and he has seen projects ranging from re-writing the ending of a story (and defending how the new ending is still in line with the original themes) to choreographing dances to music that would match a potential film score for a movie of the story (and defending how the sounds and lyrics of the songs fit the theme and mood of the story. Watching his students be successful and FEEL successful and proud of their work has been fun.

- *Naz Ali* spoke to the Board regarding the Plus program vision and the changes being made. He felt it disrupts the integrity and the vision of the Plus program, specifically with mixing all the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Plus math program section with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I regular section.
- *Terra Spencer* addressed the Board regarding the proposed changes to the Plus program. She is concerned the kids won't be able to work at their pace and ability. She also expressed concern if the teachers will be able to meet the needs of above average learners.
- *Irene Settle* stated that she was sharing "Good News" at the elementary level.
  - She noted that she had nominated *Mrs. Patty Raines* (Salem's own Teacher of the Year 2019) because she is doing something amazing this month. Besides being one of our wonderful Reading Recovery teachers providing immeasurable support for students, families and staff, she is a long-distance runner. She is running in her first Boston Marathon! Patty exemplifies all the Habits of Mind and Growth Mindset they strive to instill in our Salem students. Patty has persisted through injury and pain to reach her personal goals. Salem wishes her all the best. She noted that the marathon occurred on Monday, April 18, but they do not know the results yet. By any measure, Patty Raines is a winner!
  - Business buddies from Sunrise Dental visited Bartlett JK & K classes to talk to the kids about dental health, brushing, flossing and eating healthy food.
  - She stated that it was so nice to be able to host Salem's Family Literacy Night with the theme "Read for the Gold". Over 150+ families came and participated in fun literacy activities. Students could make their own bookmark, play minute-to-win-it games against their friends and families, participate in the book walk and win a FREE book, go to the book fair, get their family picture taken using Olympic props, go to the Lego League presentations and buy tickets for the amazing raffle prizes that our PTO worked so hard to get donated. It was nice to see smiling faces and hear laughter throughout the halls of Salem!
  - *Emily Parker* is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts teacher at Centennial Middle School. She has a love for ELA that is contagious and spreads to her students. She has watched her own son grow a love for reading this year like never before. She has authentic assignments that she has her students do as well that helps them to make connections to their books beyond the text. She is doing a phenomenal job and should be recognized for her enthusiasm, creativeness and dedication to her students.
- *Ahlivia Spencer* addressed the Board regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> grade mixed Plus class changes. She asked the Board to hear the students' voices and make the right decision.
- *Kelly Leja*, Salem 2/3 split teacher, addressed the Board regarding teacher salary steps and pay scale.
- *Leslie Miller* spoke to the Board regarding teacher inequity of salary steps and pay scale in this district. She hopes the issue will be reviewed.

- *Leigh Goyings, music teacher in South Lyon* spoke to the Board regarding salary steps. She wants more compensation and states there are no financial incentives in the district. She addressed the SLEA and asked them not to let the teachers fall through the cracks.
- *Michael Murphy* stated that South Lyon doesn't offer steps. He feels good teachers will look elsewhere. He indicated that it is critical to go back to a 10-step scale. Invest in the teachers!
- *Jasen Cooper* indicated there are better offers outside South Lyon. Newer hires should get more money. The district needs to give step increases.
- *Stacey Spiess* spoke to the board regarding the absence of pay scale steps.
- *Sandra Carolan* stated that our district is in a bit of a mess in the district with discontented teachers, students and taxpayers. She emphasized that she taught her own children at home and did not use one penny of tax money. She encouraged the Board to see the documentary "Whose Children Are They?" She encouraged the Board to see it and see what has been brought out in the forefront.
- *Frank Zemla* addressed the Board regarding the changes to the Plus program in the middle school.
- *Emmett Zemla* is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade PLUS ELA/Math program in the middle school. He spoke to the Board about the integration of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Plus classes. He felt there would be a lack of learning in the Plus classes because of the mainstream flow of kids.
- *Megan Kann*, SLEA staff member came in support of the SLEA members. She addressed how the years of actual experience as a teacher are not accounted for on the South Lyon pay scale. The teachers need to have their voices heard.
- *Renee Lezotte* stated that she had taken a \$20,000 pay cut to teach here in South Lyon. She hopes that the Board will take a stand for teachers.
- *Suraj Lakshmanan* spoke to the Board regarding the Plus program. He felt the program should not be merged with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math class.

Mr. Archibald acknowledged and thanked the students who spoke this evening. He shared his appreciation of their thoughtful remarks and comments. He praised them for the wonderful job they did expressing themselves and noted that they gave the administration, teachers and community a great deal of pride in being associated with them.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Dashner asked the Board to approve the agenda as presented unless they had any additions or deletions.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Leftwich to approve the agenda as presented.

**Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to approve the following minutes as presented:

- March 15, 2022 – Regular Meeting

**Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion carries.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Moved by Mr. Schwegler, supported by Mr. Kennedy to approve the following bills as presented:

- *March 2022 Prepays*
- *April 2022 Bond Bills*
- *March 2022 Wires & ACH Transactions*
- *March Revenue Report*

**Roll Call: Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

**CHILDCARE LEAVE EXTENSION REQUEST**

Mr. Toth stated that Andrea Janks has been on a childcare leave for the 2021-22 school year. She is requesting a second and final year of childcare leave for the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Toth asked the Board to approve the request for a 2022-23 childcare leave as presented.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to approve the request for a 2022-23 childcare leave as presented.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

**APPROVAL OF JOB SHARE**

Mr. Toth explained to the Board that Jill King and Kelly Bingley have requested a job share assignment at South Lyon East High School for the 2022-23 school year. This will be their sixth year in a job share assignment at South Lyon East. The proposed job share is supported by the South Lyon East Administration.

Moved by Mr. Leftwich, supported by Mr. Abbate to approve the request for a 2022-23 job share assignment as presented.

**Roll Call: Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

#### **HIRING OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF**

Mr. Toth stated that internal assignments necessitated the hiring of the following staff:

- *Emily Barry – Special Education teacher at SLHS*
- *Kimberlee Gouin – Special Education Resource Room teacher at Salem & Kent Lake*
- *Jacquelyn Green – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Sayre*

He asked the Board to approve the hiring of staff as listed above.

Moved by Mr. Abbate, supported by Ms. Urtel to approve the hiring of the instructional staff as presented.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes. Motion carries 7– 0.**

The Board welcomed the new teachers to the district.

#### **REVISIONS TO POLICY 5002 – BUDGET PLANNING AND ADOPTION – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

Mr. Toth explained to the Board that this policy was brought to the Board of Education at the March 15, 2022 meeting for information. The current language will maintain an end of year general fund balance between 9% and 11% of the preceding year's expenditures. The goal of the Board is to keep the gap around 10%. Language for the proposal to be voted on: Change the gap from 9%-11% to 8%-16%. He asked the Board to approve the policy gap as stated.

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Abbate to approve the policy with the gap change (8% - 16%) as presented.

**Roll Call: Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS**

Mr. Toth stated that the South Lyon East High School Athletic Department received a donation of \$3,000 from the Panthers organization to be used for general support of the athletic department, athletes and coaches. He asked the Board to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Mr. Schwegler to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003 as presented.

**Roll Call: Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

Mr. Toth added that the South Lyon High School Athletic Department received a donation of \$3,000 from the Panthers organization to be used for general support of the athletic department, athletes and coaches. He asked the Board to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003 as presented.

**Roll Call: Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT**

Mr. Toth stated that the South Lyon High School Robotics Teams received a donation \$2,500.00 from Pratt & Miller Engineering & Fabrication to be used for materials, supplies, travel and entry fees. He asked the Board to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce to accept the gift in accordance with Policy 7003 as presented.

**Roll Call: Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

**BOND 2020 TECHNOLOGY DEVICE PURCHASES**

Mr. Archibald presented a request to the Board to purchase Chromebooks and accessories in accordance with the device purchasing schedule for Bond 2020. The intent is to use these devices next year to replace existing ones. He noted that these are devices to address the one-to-one student devices initiative and to meet hardware specification requirements for DRC Insight's MSTEP and WIDA online tests. Due to the extended shipping times for Chromebooks (12+ weeks), he is requesting the Board to review and approve the purchases at this evening's meeting. Bids were received from the Spring 2022 SPOT/REMC bid on April 13, 2022 for the student devices. Three bids were available on the SPOT/REMC competitive bid results for the items listed. The quantities and cost are within the projected purchases for mobile computing devices identified in the Bond 2020 for technology. He asked the Board to award the following purchases:

- Sehi Computer products for 860 of the HP Chromebook 11 G9 EE in the amount of \$201,885.00 (Bond Funds)
- Sehi Computer for 860 of the Chromebook Management Licenses in the amount of \$25,473.20 (Capital Funds)
- Sehi Computer for 860 8 Gigabyte memory upgrade in the amount of \$19,909.00 (Bond Funds)

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Kennedy to award the purchases as presented.

**Roll Call: Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

**BOND 2020 PLAYGROUND PHASE 2 – BARTLETT, ECC, KENT LAKE**

Mr. Archibald explained that playground bids were presented at the Facility Planning Committee meeting on April 5, 2022. Representatives from Barton Malow and IDS evaluated the bid proposals for the Playground projects. A post-bid review meeting was conducted with the contractor on March 6, 2022, and references were checked. Everything was found to be in order. He asked the Board to award the Playground projects to Sinclair Recreation in the amount of \$322,000.00.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, supported by Ms. Urtel to award the Playground projects to Sinclair Recreation in the amount of \$322,000.00 as presented.

**Roll Call: Ms. Urtel-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Leftwich-yes, Ms. Junkulis-Pierce-yes, Mr. Abbate-yes, Mr. Dashner-yes, Mr. Schwegler-yes. Motion carries 7 – 0.**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PLUS PROGRAM**

Ms. Lisa Kudwa shared the proposed suggested changes to the middle school Plus program beginning in 2022-23. The purpose for considering the change is twofold. The administration team was asked by the superintendent to consider whether two changes were possible. Could the program be offered at both middle schools as some parents want to send their children to Centennial Middle School, but still want to participate in the Plus program and whether the ELA Plus entry criteria could be revisited. Administration know that the students selected for the program are successful, but could additional students also benefit from the courses. These requests were made by Mr. Archibald based on discussions he had with community members.

South Lyon Community Schools provides the Middle School Plus Program classes in Math and English Language Arts to meet the needs of the small percentage of academically talented middle school students. She noted that the Language Arts Plus classes offer the students enrichment and acceleration options in language arts. The Mathematics Plus classes offer the students a curriculum that is one grade level above their peers. For example, the Math Plus 6<sup>th</sup> grade students learn the Math 7 curriculum. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in Math Plus take the more rigorous of the two-8th grade math curriculum offerings – Algebra I. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Math Plus take the next course in the Mathematics sequence – Geometry.

Currently the Plus program is offered only at Millennium Middle School, and students who qualify for the program but are in the boundary of Centennial Middle School have to choose between attending their boundary school or receiving the services offered by the program. Both parents and students have asked if the program could run in both schools so that students are able to continue attending middle school with their neighborhood and siblings. Administration has been monitoring when it makes sense to divide the program and in terms of both student interest and staffing, they believe that they may be at that point. They are also considering adjustments that expand eligibility for the ELA courses. The high school programs are honors courses and students are able to self-select to enroll. The shifts that are being considered would align both middle and high school in the same model.

A proposed plan was developed by a middle school and central office administrative team. The proposed plan was shared with many groups for feedback. Changes were made to the proposal based on feedback from these groups. A proposal which allows for the above grade level math and more rigorous ELA course would be offered in both locations and opens the ELA Plus course to additional high achieving students.

ELA Plus classes would shift their title to ELA Honors and would broaden the number of students who are eligible for the courses. There is only a minor change to the actual ELA test process. Current Plus placement tests (SCAT and STEP) are still given. Parents/guardians are provided the data and a recommendation is shared by staff based on scores. Families can opt into the ELA Honors courses in middle school at their discretion so long as the scores are close. A writing sample will be given and scored only when a family or school needs an additional data point.

Math Plus classes would shift over the next few years to be offered at both middle schools. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Plus would remain a separate course (teaching the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math Plus would still be enrolled in Algebra I but would not be separated from the high achieving 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who opt to take Algebra 1. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math Plus students would take Geometry. There will no changes to the Math testing process. There will be additional rounds of testing this Spring only for those incoming 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade families who did not opt for testing initially.

5<sup>th</sup> grade Magnet students from the CMS boundary were given the option to still select MMS for middle School. In future years, incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade students would attend their boundary school unless their sibling was already in the Plus program at MMS.

Because current Plus students can opt to remain at MMS and incoming Magnet program students are being given a choice for next year, administration does anticipate that the enrollment numbers for ELA Honors and Math Plus will take a few years to balance out. While student counts should warrant both middle schools offering ELA Honors and Math Plus, allowing a phasing in a strict boundary enrollment means a few years of uneven class sizes.

Since current 7<sup>th</sup> grade Plus students will remain at MMS next year, there is not a need to offer Geometry at CMS. While it was not planned to offer an ELA Honors 8 class at CMS, staff asked that administration consider doing so. There are students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade now at CMS who would be ready for and benefit from ELA Honors 8 next year.

#### NEXT STEPS:

- Scoring needs to be completed on the April testing round and those families must identify which school their child will attend if they qualify for the Plus Math or ELA Honors courses. A few students from the April testing were absent at the time of testing and their tests are still being made up.
- Another round of testing and scoring will occur in May.
- The proposal will return to the May 3 Board of Education meeting for consideration for approval.

#### LEGISLATION

Mr. Archibald indicated that there was no new legislation to report.

#### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Legislative** – There is not a lot going on in Lansing right now. The meetings are about possible proposed laws. Keep eyes on teacher/administration performance evaluations, school aid and financing.
- **Policy** – The Policy Committee did not meet this evening.
- **Finance** – They met recently and discussed per pupil funding.
- **Facilities Planning** – They met and reviewed bids that were presented this evening. Still on track with other projects that were presented to the Board.
- **Curriculum & Communications** – They met last week and discussed the Plus Program proposal.

**OTHER**

There was nothing further to share.

**REPORTS**

***South Lyon Educational Foundation*** – Ms. Junkulis-Pierce stated that the event at Twisted Cork had 83 participants and allowed the foundation to raise around \$1,700. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the Twisted Cork for offering to share the event with them. Grant applications for teachers are being accepted, and the Foundation is offering five large grants that can go up to \$1,000 each. The next big fundraiser is a big Spring Mini Photo Shoot on May 14 & 15 at Maybury State Park near the farm. Information is available on the website. They are 20-minute sessions, and the photographers are South Lyon staff who donate their time. The South Lyon Foundation continues to offer financial support for two social/emotional learning dogs for this fall. The Foundation would like to thank the SLHS Key Club for collecting nearly \$500 to donate to the Foundation's Free Book Shopping Day that happens at the South Lyon/Salem library that allows teachers to shop at the beginning of the school year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Dashner offered a second opportunity for public comments.

- *Lori Black* commented on the Plus Program changes. She does not feel the timing and numbers are right at this point to have the program in two buildings.
- *Ann Ehresman* expressed her belief in SLCS. We have great teachers in every building in the district. People are dedicated and want to do well to see our kids do well. She believes that our Academically Talented program is a huge asset to the SLCS district. It needs to be expanded to both middle schools. She asked the Board to advocate for these children who are asking to go the extra mile.
- *Ahlia Spencer* spoke to the Board regarding the changes in the Plus program. Students really like the electives. Math and ELA are the two subjects she believes people need. These classes are crucial to their future careers. She wants to be in Plus classes.
- *Miriam Corvino* shared comments for the community. She is collecting petition signatures for 'Let Michigan Kids Learn' to get veto proof legislation on the ballot with the purpose of helping parents help their children by easing the financial burden to do it. Our public schools are failing our kids, and the Partners in Public Education and the Michigan Democratic Party are failing parents. It is a parent driven initiative because they are tired of being held hostage. This plan gives parents more control and to expand opportunities for every student. Let Michigan Kids Learn is hosting a Zoom town hall on April 20 with special guest Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida to discuss educational options for Michigan children. She stated that she is also working with Get Michigan Kids Back to School and is actively recruiting for school board candidates. There are two vacancies coming up on this school board and according to her sources MASB has already recruited a number of candidates from our community that are sure to be complicit, compliant and obedient with the Partners in Public Education push for a radical agenda aimed at dismantling every system in a republic. She added that both parties are off course. The role of precinct delegates cannot be overstated. It is time to take the helm of your party's ship and redirect it back on course. She asked everyone to consider running for precinct delegate. The deadline to file your affidavit of identity is just a few weeks' time.
- *Sandra Carolan* thanked the Board for the work this evening and for listening to the community.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the following correspondence:

- *Retirement*
  - *Nancy S. Pantaleo – Media Specialist at MMS, effective June 30, 2022*
- *Resignations*
  - *Christina Rickard – Special Education Teacher at CMS, effective March 21, 2022*
  - *Nicole Fuerstnau – Special Education Social Worker at ECC/Brummer, effective April 7, 2022*
  - *Prea Ferrante – Middle School Choir Teacher – not returning from leave*

**MEETING DATES**

Mr. Dashner acknowledged the following meeting dates.

- May 3, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 17, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 6, 2022, (Monday), Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 21, 2022, Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

- **Mr. Leftwich** thanked our Teachers of the Year (Brenton Montie, Beth Allor & Molly Copple) for their outstanding work and noted that they truly deserve the recognition. He also thanked the teachers who shared their stories at the board meeting this evening. Their perspectives are important as they move on to negotiations in the district.
- **Ms. Junkulis-Pierce** congratulated our Teachers of the Year who go above and beyond every day. She noted that our district would not be what it is without our amazing staff. She thanked all of our parents, community members and students who came to speak today. The Board listens to each and every comment. She spoke regarding steps for teachers. Disparity does exist when you have new people coming in that are paid more than existing people. It is something the Board and district needs to look at, and hopefully something can be done about it. The district is driven by a budget, but she believes everyone should be paid by their experience. She welcomed the new teachers. She thanked our generous donors who continue to support all of our programs. She mentioned that one of our teachers was recently diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing treatment. Sayre has a fundraiser going right now. Keep Mrs. Clark in your prayers and hope for a speedy recovery for her and that she is able to come back to teaching.
- **Mr. Schwegler** congratulated the Teachers of the Year with a special congratulations to Mr. Montie. He enjoys all the special guests every meeting, and especially the adult transition kids who were here this evening. It is nice to see that they are building skills that will help them live independently. He was glad to hear their story today. He also thanked those who came in support of the Plus program this evening.

- **Mr. Abbate** offered his congratulations to the Teachers of the Year. He asked Mr. Montie to keep the “Good Things” coming. He mentioned retiree, Nancy Pantaleo, who he felt was a pillar of Millennium. She is fantastic and is deserving of all the wonderful things that come with retirement. He wished her well and noted that it will be a loss for Millennium. He also extended his appreciation for those who spoke this evening regarding the Plus program. He added that it was great to see Micro Enterprises with Molly Copple, Julie Cippola, and Ms. Hanshaw with the students. They gave the Board wonderful gifts, and he will be purchasing a golf umbrella from them.
- **Ms. Urtel** offered her congratulations to Nancy Pantaleo. She welcomed the new teachers. She also offered her congratulations to Ms. Kristen Weber who just recently earned her doctorate. She wished good luck to all of the spring sports. Last week SLHS seniors did multiple senior service projects. One was a beautification and built flower beds in the outside commons area and art projects where they created a USA map where students will be able to pin where they are going to college. There was a unified soccer game with our CI kids. This is the first year they did that, and she hopes they keep it going from year to year. In a week from now, EHS will be doing their musical which is “Grease”. She acknowledged the three great Teachers of the Year. She knows Mr. Montie very well as her kids had him as a teacher in middle school. She noted he is a phenomenal teacher and thanked him for all that he does.
- **Mr. Kennedy** gave a testament to the passion and the effort and input on the Plus program, the involvement of our CI kids and their mentors and teachers with the PEERS program. He shared that one of the high school choirs will be singing at the next board meeting. He also mentioned he would like to hear more about our PEERS program and thanked those involved for all that they do. Mr. Archibald noted that we had two districts come to our district and visit the PEERS program this year with the intent of taking it back to their district and implement a similar program.
- **Mr. Dashner** thanked the Panthers organization for gifts to both of the high schools and all that they do to support our Robotics team. He congratulated the teachers of the year. He thanked the students who spoke during public comments. He shared a story involving his son who is on the Unified Lacrosse team between SLEHS and SLHS. Mr. Dashner heard through a message that his son was going to a party. Mr. Dashner found out that one of the members of his son’s team is part of the PEERS program, who is on the autism spectrum and never had a birthday party. His son was working with the parents to give this young man a birthday party. His son approached the coach that he had to leave early from practice so he could go to the party. After explaining why he had to leave early, it touched the coach, and the coach reached out to the student’s mother which resulted with the entire Lacrosse team going to the student’s home and sing him happy birthday.

**ADJOURN**

Moved by Ms. Junkulis-Pierce, supported by Mr. Abbate to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

**Ayes – 7, Nays - 0. Motion carries 7 - 0.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Urtel  
Board Secretary